



## XVII IFSC GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23-24-25 APRIL 2021 – VIRTUAL MEETING

### MINUTES

<b>IFSC EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>	
Marco Maria Sclaris	President
Debbie Gawrych	Secretary General
Kobinata Toru	Vice President Sport/Events
Li Zhixin	Vice President Communications
Pierre-Henri Paillason	Vice President Finance
Anthony Seah	IFSC Asia President
Wolfgang Wabel	IFSC Europe President
Romain Thevenot	IFSC Oceania President
Maria Izquierdo	IFSC Pan America President
Shauna Coxsey	Athletes' Representative
Sean McColl	Athletes' Representative
<b>COMMISSIONS' REPRESENTATIVES AND OTHER SPEAKERS</b>	
Paolo Orione	Anti-Doping Officer
Andrea Barabino	Auditor
Stefania Boschetti	Auditor (EY)
Marc Le Menestrel	Chair of the Ethics Commission
Eugen Burtscher	Chair of the Medical Commission
Sebastian Depke	Chair of the Paraclimbing Committee
Paola Gigliotti	Honorary Member

<b>NATIONAL FEDERATIONS REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>NF</b>
ARG	Magdalena Kast, Pablo Artigue	FASA
AUS	Naomi Cleary	SCA
AUT	Eugen Burtscher, Heiko Wilhelm	KVÖ
BEL	Tijl Smitz	CMBEL
BRA	Janine Cardoso	ABEE
BUL	Dora Marinova	BFKA
CAN	Christiane Marceau, Cathy Woods, Paul Dormaar	CEC
CHI	Willy Montenegro	FEACH
CHN	Li Guowei	CMA
COL	Dagoberto Robayo	FCED
CRO	Nenad Jović, Enna Peroš, Ivan Steficar	HSPS
CYP	Pavlos Georgiades	CMCOF
CZE	Jan Bloudek	CHS
DEN	Christian Nicolai Ørum-Petersen	DKF
ECU	José Moreano Diaz	FEDAN
ESP	Lluís Giner Arnabat, Quim Hernandez	FEDME
FRA	Damien You, Florian Kunckler, Pierre You	FFME
GBR	Zoe Spriggins, Lynn Robinson	BMC
GER	Burgi Beste, Martin Veith	DAV
GRE	Theodoros Tsavaridis	EOOA
GUA	Meder Valdez	FNAG
HKG	Francis Lo, Frederick Yu, Shirman So	CHKCMU
HUN	Mate Radics	MHSSz
INA	Jamaludin Jamaludin	FPTI
IND	Joe Dhillon, Kiruthi Pais	IMF
IRI	Mohammad Havaledar, Seyed Abdollahi	IMSCF
ISR	Erez Hareli	ILCA
ITA	Davide Manzoni, Davide Battistella	FASI
JPN	Yuji Hirayama, Shinji Mizumura, Yujiro Gohda	JMSCA
KAZ	Imashev Alzhan, Kazbek Valiyev	MSCFRK
KOR	Joong-Ho Son, Sanghee Cho	KAF
KSA	Yasmin Ghatani	SCHF
LAT	Normunds Reinbergs, Linda Gruzite	LAA
LTU	Margarita Smirnoviene, Milda Korevaite	LCSA
MEX	Alfredo Velázquez	FEMED
MKD	Vladimir Trpovski	MSCF
MLT	Marco Tomasini	MSFA

MRI	Cathy Foo Kune	MSCF
NED	Frits Cattenstart, Rogier Wouters, Aukje van Weert	NKBV
NEP	Megha Raj Poudyal	NCSA
NOR	Reino Horak	NKF
NZL	Richard Waldin	CNZ
PAN	Rogelio Alvarado	APAES
PER	Sandra Portugal	FEDPE
PHI	Franz Lim	SCAPI
POL	Marcin Wernik	PZA
POR	Alberto Cruz	FPME
PUR	Rene Sepúlveda, Bryant Huffman	FEDPR
RSA	George Stainton	SANCF
RWA	Alfred Twahirwa	RSCF
RUS	Dmitriy Bychkov, Evgeniy Chernyshev	CFR
SGP	Rasip Isnin, Hayati Suaidi	SSCMF
SRB	Goran Perunovic	USCFS
SUI	Doris Rechsteiner, Daniel Marbacher	SAC
SVK	Anton Paček	SMU James
SWE	Patrik Blom	SKF
THA	Sukritchai Teeraroengrit	SCAT
TPE	Hsuan Hsu, Wei-Chi Huang	CTAA
TUR	Ersan Basar	TMF
UKR	Serik Kazbekov	UMCF
USA	Marc Norman, Bruce Mitchell	USAC
VEN	Osdaly Haché-Sosa, Federico Pisani	FEVME

Approved 18 March 2022

Friday 23 April

14:00-17:00 UTC+2

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. Enforcement of Article 10

All members registered and present during the General Assembly are compliant with Article 10 of the IFSC Statutes. The table below shows the current status of Membership and voting rights.

	BEFORE MEMBERSHIP RATIFICATION	AFTER MEMBERSHIP RATIFICATION
IFSC MEMBERSHIP	93	95
IFSC FULL MEMBERS	73	75
IFSC FULL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING	65	67
IFSC FULL MEMBERS SUSPENDED	8	8
IFSC MEMBERS PRESENT IN GOOD STANDING	54	56

Voting system: votes are called by the President and voting members can express their choice with yes no or abstain. All votes cast count in the final count of expressed votes, whereas blank votes (or no votes) will not be considered.

New Full Members: Puerto Rico, and Croatia shall not exercise their vote before the ratification of their membership on item 3 of the Agenda.

Lumi informs there is a total of 84 attendees currently present, 55 of which are voting members.

Before the beginning of the sessions, Members are shown a video-message by IOC President, Thomas Bach.

**2. MINUTES**

- a. Approval of the XVI IFSC General Assembly, 13-14 November 2020 [Ref. 2.a\_2020\_IFSC\_XVI\_VGA\_Minutes\_v3\_TBA]

With no comments received, President Marco Maria Sclaris proceeds to call the vote.

Vote to approve the Minutes of the XVI IFSC General Assembly 13-14 November 2021 - Virtual Meeting						
Total Possible Votes: 45						
Blank Votes: 6						
In favour	38	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

**3. MEMBERSHIP**

IFSC Secretary General Debbie Gawrych [DG] introduces the Membership item. DG reminds that, as per the recently approved IFSC Strategic Plan, there is a goal to reach more than 100 Member Federations by the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. As shown earlier, we have now 93 Members and two new members are put to the attention of the General Assembly for consideration. Before going in the details of the new proposed members, DG acknowledges the information submitted by FCED (COL) suggesting some items for the improvement of the membership structure and informs that the revision of the membership as a whole is going to be one of the tasks for the new leadership, following the upcoming elections.

a. PUERTO RICO [Ref. 3.a\_2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Membership\_PuertoRico\_Memo]

DG introduces the first candidate for Membership, representing Puerto Rico. The FEDPR – Federación Puertorriqueña de Escalada Deportiva, has been working very hard to become a member of the IFSC. The information has been thoroughly reviewed by the IFSC Executive Board and they were approved to be a new member of the IFSC.

I. Vote to ratify the EB decision to admit the FEDPR as Full Member representing Puerto Rico

Vote to ratify the EB decision to admit the Federación Puertorriqueña de Escalada Deportiva (FEDPR) as IFSC Full Member representing Puerto Rico						
Total Possible Votes: 45 Blank Votes: 7						
In favour	38	Against	0	Abstained	0	APPROVED

b. CROATIA

DG introduces the item of representation in Croatia. The IFSC had a historical member representing Croatia, the HPS. As an Alpine Association, they were recently asked by their local institutions to change their statutes and withdraw the governance of Sport Climbing from their activities. The IFSC was informed in late 2020 that HPS was going through a process of membership termination. This was finalised in February 2021, when HPS officially informed the IFSC that, following their General Assembly and the changes of the HPS Statutes, they must terminate their membership with the IFSC.

Another member, the HSPTS, was founded in July 2020 specifically to govern Sport Climbing at national level and they have been cooperating in the past months to be included as the new IFSC member representing Croatia. The HSPTS is considered to be in good order to become the new IFSC member representing Croatia.

I. Vote to ratify the request of Membership Termination submitted by the Croatian Mountaineering Association (HPS) [Ref. 3.b.I\_2021\_IFSC\_GA\_HPS\_Membership\_Termination]

Vote to ratify the request of Membership Termination submitted by the Croatian Mountaineering Association (HPS)						
Total Possible Votes: 45 Blank Vote: 5						
In favour	39	Against	1	Abstained	0	APPROVED

The President spends a few words to thank the HPS as founding members of the IFSC and for their support in the past years.

II. Vote to ratify the EB decision to admit the Croatian Sport Climbing Federation as IFSC Full Member (HSPTS)

Vote to ratify the EB decision to admit the Croatian Sport Climbing Federation (HSPTS) as IFSC Full Member representing Croatia						
Total Possible Votes: 46 Blank Votes: 7						
In favour	38	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

The President welcomes FEDPR and HSPTS as the new member representing Puerto Rico and Croatia.

#### 4. ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT

The President thanks IOC President T. Bach for the message and proceeds to welcoming newly elected Presidents among IFSC Member Federations. The President pays tribute to the departed, remembering the loss of French athlete Luce Douady in June 2020.

The President continues his report: amid the pandemic, the year 2020 has been a year of challenges and it is uncertain when it will end. The financial, social, and psychological effects of what we are living now are heavy and unpredictable.

The 2020 IFSC Calendar has been devastated by the pandemic, losing almost all competitions except the Lead World Cup in Briançon. Nevertheless, we were able to complete the qualification process, and successfully host the Continental Championships of Africa, Europe, Oceania, and Pan America. Unfortunately, it was impossible to run the Asian Championships. The major regret remains that the pandemic put a halt to Paraclimbing events in the year a new governance of the sport was put in place. Since March 2019, the renewed Paraclimbing Committee has been working tirelessly, and we will see the results of their hard work very soon.

Throughout the toughest months of 2020, the IFSC Executive Board met weekly; we met several times with the National Federations to keep up to date and reassure our Members that we were thriving and preparing for better times. We organised two General Assemblies, one in writing for the approval of the financial documents in May 2020, and our first ever virtual General Assembly in November 2020 which saw the approval of the Strategic Plan and paved the way for the complete review of the Statutes for 2022.

The President informs that the agreement with the International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation to share a three-room office at the Maison du Sport International in Lausanne was finalised. This allowed more frequent visits to the Olympic capital, respecting the health and safety regulations and measures, and made operations easier. Life in Torino was very dynamic before the pandemic: Olympic preparation seminars with Olympians Hugo Herrnhof (Olympic Champion in Lillehammer 1994) and Ivo Ferriani (also IOC Executive Board member) were organised to share advice and expertise that was useful for the preparation of the Olympic Games.

The end of 2020 also marked the end of the painful and costly CAS appeals submitted by JMCSA against the IFSC. The President was deeply involved in the preparation of the defence working with IFSC legal firm Kellerhals-Carrard. The appeals were eventually rejected by CAS and after the award, the IFSC sat down with JMCSA to set the foundation for a stronger collaboration in the interest of the Japanese athletes and of the sport in general.

The preparation for the Games is well underway. The wall that had been built for the test event of March 2020 has been dismantled and stored, while the basis remained in place. In mid-May the panels will be re-installed, following the 3x3 test event. What is important is that the Games will take place under new light, described in the Playbooks published by the IOC. These documents propose a new way of managing the Olympic and Paralympic Games in a more frugal style for the safety of the athletes, the delegations and all the volunteers involved in the operations.

Looking at the future, due to the circumstances, Sport Climbing has been included in the programme of Paris 2024 before the debut in Tokyo. This inclusion entails double the medals and a 60% increase of the number of athletes.

The approval of the Strategic Plan in November 2020 is a milestone in the history of the IFSC. Since 2007, the numbers have consistently grown, in the turnover, the cash flow, and membership, and with this guide there are no excuses not to keep moving forward.

Before concluding, the President thanks the Board members for the commitment in the last year attending many teleconferences despite the time zones.

#### 5. ETHICS COMMISSION

Chair of the Ethics Commission Marc Le Menestrel [MLM] gives a report on the activities. After introducing the first part of the project Voices of IFSC Leaders in November 2020, where Executive Board members were interviewed regarding the values of the IFSC, MLM reports the second part of the project, done between January and February 2021 with the National Federations. A total of 26 IFSC National Federations were interviewed to testify about their values in relationship with the IFSC. Each interview took about one hour, and the representatives were given the opportunity to talk about who they are, what their objectives are, their values and challenges, and their relationship with the IFSC.

**6. GOVERNANCE**

- a. Presentation and Vote to approve the adaptation of the Byelaws to the Statute amendments approved in 2020 [Ref. 6.a\_IFSC\_Statute\_ByeLaws\_TBA]

The Statute review presented in November 2020 did not take into account the byelaws: therefore, the byelaws needed to be aligned with the newly approved Statutes. The adaptation of the byelaws is cosmetic and serves to have consistency in the transition from the current Statutes, which will be fully revised in 2021 for 2022 as part of the mandate of the new Executive Board. [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 1-4]

Vote to approve the adaptation of the Byelaws to the Statutes Amendments approved in 2020						
Total Possible Votes: 52						
Blank Votes: 7						
In favour	44	Against	0	Abstained	1	APPROVED

- b. New Organisational Opportunity [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 5-11]

IFSC General Director Piero Rebaudengo [PR] presents a possible project to accelerate the growth of Sport Climbing, and achieve the objectives of inclusion in the Olympic and Paralympic programmes in line with the Strategic Plan, as well as creating the premises for future event delivery models. An internal benchmarking has been performed to see the best practices at international level and among the NFs. In the current organisational structure, the IFSC conducts both institutional and operational activities; the IFSC owns its events and is partially involved in the organisation and delivery of its events. The Strategic Plan needs to be implemented, and being an Olympic Sport means also having a different approach in the development of the sport and of the NFs, and a different model in the management of events. Setting up an additional structure is in line with what many IFs and NFs do, in order to duly carry out the institutional and developmental activities on one side, and the sport activities on the other. The additional structure (subsidiary) would be owned by the IFSC and would allow to have more resources, both human and financial, to be directly involved in the organisation and delivery of IFSC events as well as the multi-sport events including Climbing and have a more solid commercial activity to make the IFSC self-sufficient. Next steps are to be defined and will be aligned to the new Statutes.

Questions are asked from Croatia and Germany on the timeline and where the funds would come from.

PR answers that if the project goes ahead, the next Executive Board will define the timeline, and the funding will be a consequence of how the project will be set up.

**7. FINANCE**

IFSC Vice President of Finance Pierre-Henri Paillason [PHP] introduces the Finances and informs that despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, the 2020 financial year closes on a positive note. This is due to the prudent management of the finances, the support of the sponsors who honoured their obligations, and the outstanding contribution of the IOC.

- a. Presentation and Vote to approve the 2020 Audit and Financial Statements: Discharge of the Treasurer and the Executive Board [Ref. 7.a\_2021\_IFSC\_GA\_FinancialStatements\_TBA; Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 12-17]

The 2020 Audited Financial Statements include the report of IFSC Auditor Andrea Barabino, the Balance Sheet as of 31 December 2020, Profit and Loss of the year ended 31 December 2020, and the notes to the Financial Statements. Administration Director Francesca Jengo [FJ] presents the Balance Sheet, and the Profit and Loss. FJ adds some notes on the major variations from the 2020 approved budget:

1. The IOC financial contribution was confirmed in the second part of the year, so it was not included in the budget approved in May 2020. This contribution is aimed at supporting the activities affected by the pandemic and cover the related losses.
2. The second instalment of the 2020 fees from IFSC marketing agency Dentsu was cautiously not included in the 2020 budget, but finally confirmed. This is also reflected in the cost (commissions).
3. The income generated by the 2020 events are slightly higher than expected.
4. Financial adjustments refer to the exchange difference of the non-EUR bank accounts balances (especially USD) calculated as of 31 December 2020.

FJ gives more details on the allocation of IOC funds received in 2020: 1/3 of the funds were used to cover and support the 2020 activities of the IFSC that were affected by the cancellation or reduction of events. A larger portion will be used for 2021 and following years for the same purposes. Another part has been allocated to run development programmes as per the Strategic Plan. [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, p. 18]

The calendar fees received in 2020 for events postponed to 2021 have been reclassified as Deferred Revenues for 2021, and therefore do not constitute a revenue for 2020. Similarly, the income generated by the Official Sport Equipment contracts have been reclassified as Deferred Revenues for 2021 and do not constitute a revenue for 2020. [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, p. 19]  
 IFSC Auditor Andrea Barabino reads the report the Financial Statements. [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, p. 20]

Vote to approve the 2020 Audit and Financial Statements: Discharge of the Treasurer and of the Executive Board						
Total Possible Votes: 54						
Blank Votes: 7						
In favour	45	Against	1	Abstained	1	APPROVED

b. Report by external Auditing firm Ernst&Young [Ref. 7.b\_2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Report\_EY; Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, p. 23]  
 EY representative Stefania Boschetti gives the report on behalf of IFSC External Auditing Firm EY. EY was appointed by the Executive Board in January 2021 and performed an additional audit for the year 2020. The audit came to the same conclusion as already disclosed by Dr. Andrea Barabino.

c. Presentation and Vote to approve the 2021 Provisional Budget [Ref. 7.c\_2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Provisional\_Budget\_TBA]  
 FJ presents the provisional budget for 2021. This version has been drafted considering that all events will take place this next season. In line with IFs best practices, the budget is presented in a more concise way with better detailed Financial Statements, including notes on the main items. The lines of the budget had been named in a way that is fully consistent with the current structure and activities of the IFSC (i.e. division of Marketing and Communications also to reflect the division of the two departments). More details are given on the revenues and on the costs. [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 24-27]  
 Question from Australia asking to explain what the taxes and social charges are.  
 FJ explains that the social charges are the taxes paid by the employer on top of the net salaries. This probably happens in most countries, and it is split to show the different types of taxes and their related amount that are invested every year.

Vote to approve the 2021 Provisional Budget						
Total Possible Votes: 55						
Blank Votes: 4						
In favour	51	Against	0	Abstained	0	APPROVED

d. Presentation and Vote to approve the IFSC Investment Plan [Ref. 7.d\_2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Investments\_TBA]  
 FJ presents the investment plan [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, p. 30-31]. As a result of the growth of the past years, it is advised to transfer part of the cash into different and more convenient products instead of leaving them in the bank. This would help mitigate the financial risks which are mainly two: the so-called exchange rate risk or currency risk, by which while the currency of the incomes is equally balanced between currencies (USD-EUR in this case), the same cannot be said for the expenses. So, with 85% of the outgoing transactions being in EUR, the value of all USD deposits is subject to the fluctuation of the market. The second type of risk, is the negative credit interests imposed by banks (in this case Crédit Suisse) on cash deposits above a certain threshold, resulting in very high charges already applied in Q1 of 2021. Following these considerations, the recommendations is to invest in risk-free products, which are similar to the long-term investments already in place, and Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Funds, such as green and sustainable bonds, sustainable balanced and flexible investments which are subject to the inherent risks. The proposal is to 1. Invest in risk free products to mitigate the financial risks, and 2. Give the mandate to the Financial Commission, that will be appointed by the newly elected Executive Board, to explore the risks and opportunities of ESG Funds.

A question from Australia is asked on whether there is a penalty to withdraw funds if needed.  
 FJ explains that in principle this is correct in the first years, however the IFSC already has funds in a life insurance and for these there would not be a penalty as they have already been deposited for a long time, so if the IFSC were in need to make a withdrawal priority would be given to the older funds.



A question from Czech Republic is asked on the expectation of the ratio between the two types of risk-preventing possibilities. FJ explains that first it would be recommended to start immediately with risk-free products to avoid being charged the negative credit interest, so the amount above the threshold would be moved to this type of products. Then in the meantime, the Finance Commission will be appointed and will explore the possibilities given by ESG Funds and this will require more time to make a decision.

Vote to approve the Investment Plan						
Total Possible Votes: 55						
Blank Votes: 5						
In favour	45	Against	0	Abstained	5	APPROVED

**8. DISCIPLINARY AND APPEALS COMMISSIONS**

On behalf of the Disciplinary Commission, DG informs that no cases have been reported since November 2020. Should any disciplinary issues arise during the Olympic Games, they will be dealt with by the IOC.

DG further informs that with no disciplinary reports, no appeals have been submitted or dealt with since November 2020.

**9. CONTINENTAL COUNCILS**

- a. Africa Council

African Council Representative George Stainton gives the report of activities for the African Council.

[Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 34-43].

- b. Asian Council

Asian Council Representative Anthony Seah gives the report of activities for the Asian Council.

[Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 44-49]

- c. European Council

European Council Representative Wolfgang Wabel gives the report of activities for the European Council.

[Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 50-57]

- d. Oceania Council

Oceania Council Representative Romain Thevenot gives the report of activities for the Oceania Council.

[Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 58-62]

- e. Pan American Council

Pan American Council Representative Maria Izquierdo gives the report of activities for the Pan American Council.

[Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 64-72]

The meeting is adjourned at 16:45 CEST.



Saturday 24 April

14:00-17:00 UTC+2

## 10. CALL TO ORDER

Lumi informs there is a total of 91 attendees currently present, 56 of which are voting members. The President opens the meeting thanking IFSC partners for their support.

## 11. OLYMPIC AND MULTI-SPORT GAMES

### a. Tokyo Games event preparation

IFSC Vice President Sport/Events Toru Kobinata [KT] opens the session with a video provided by the Japanese Central Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, featuring IFSC Athlete Tomoa Narasaki.

After the conclusion of the qualification period, KT presents the athletes officially qualified for the Olympic Games. The preparation of the Tokyo Games is well underway, despite the several difficulties, and KT gives an overview of the current status: the venue at Aomi Urban Park is waiting for the panels to be reinstalled around mid-May, after the Basketball 3x3 Test Event. The Games will be delivered under Covid measures, which are quite strict. The playbooks are available on the IOC website, and they are scheduled to be updated at the end of April, and then again around end of June-beginning of July.

There are some uncertainties connected to the possibility and modality in which delegations will be able to enter Japan, but this is in the hands of the Government and the Sport Climbing team is ready to deliver the Games.

Head of Olympic and Multi-Sport Games Jérôme Meyer [JM] gives details about the timeline leading up to the Games. There are two steps: 1. Routesetters and Staff arrival; the second step comes after the Basketball 3x3 event, in which Athletes arrive and training begins [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 73-81].

Further details of the venue, access to the field of play [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 82-86].

JM presents a 3D rendering of the venue provided by Luxov: they will give elements to the Olympic Broadcasting Services (OBS) to help the positioning of the cameras as well as to enrich the feed with details of the wall, holds, and improve sport presentation and audience experience.

### b. Paris 2024

JM gives information about the status of organisation of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 88-95]. Sport Climbing was originally planned to be hosted in central Paris, Place de la Concorde, but later moved to a different venue further out in the city. There are pros and cons: Place de la Concorde is an emblematic location and an astonishing stage that the IFSC would share with other sports, whereas the new venue is not as fancy, but it is solely dedicated to Sport Climbing allowing more freedom in the preparation of the event, and its position is closer to the Media Village.

The focus is now on the definition of the layout of the venue: field of play, warm-up and training, accesses, and the legacy plan for the walls that will be built for the delivery of the Games. The French Federation FFME will be involved in this process.

JM proceeds to giving a simplified timeline from after the Tokyo Games and on into the next years, including details on the delivery model, which is different from the way Games have been delivered until Tokyo 2020 .

### c. Continental Games

JM gives a quick overview of the Continental Games planned for the coming years, intended to bring consistency in terms of sport experience and delivery experience, as well as transferring the knowledge [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, p. 97].

### d. Other Multi-Sport Games

JM makes a focus on the World Games scheduled for 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama, USA: this used to be Sport Climbing's main event before the Olympic Games. After a year of pause, the works have resumed, and IFSC with USA Climbing are working for the definition of the venue layout, sourcing of the walls, etc. [Ref. 2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, p. 98].

## 12. SPORT DEPARTMENT

### a. Boulder & Lead Paris 2024 Combined Format

KT introduces the Boulder & Lead format for Paris 2024 [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 101-109*]. Initial details on the outcome of the Working Group created for this purpose were given in at the last GA in November 2020. The main question was if the existing combined model would work well for the Paris 2024 format, given the different disciplines.

The detailed report was sent to the NFs ahead of the General Assembly, Sport Director Silvia Verdolini [SV] gives further details on the work carried out since November 2020. Following the initial presentation, the working group performed several analyses, and the outcome is that the number of ties is significantly increased when applying the Tokyo ranking-based system to the 2-discipline combined format. A small working group, athlete-focused, was formed to address how to maintain each discipline equal, while ensuring – from a technical perspective – that a clear tie-breaking mechanism is in place and that the scoring system is easy to understand from all kinds of audiences. The calendar 2022 will include competitions in this format to start testing it from both a technical and sport standpoint. SV gives more details on the simulation and analysis performed for the tie-breaking mechanism. Following such analysis, the Executive Board approved the recommendation of the small working group to dismiss the pure ranking-based model and pursue the elaboration of technical details to fine-tune the performance-based model. Once elected, the next Executive Board will decide the number of athletes for each discipline (Speed and Boulder & Lead), as well as define the relevant detailed formats.

### b. Event Quota Structure and CUWR

Following the approval of the new World Cup quota structure by the GA in November 2020, KT presents the work of the working group formed thereafter. The goals were to define the ranking system and rethink the event structure in a sustainable way to be applied to all continents.

The complete document was sent to the NFs ahead of the General Assembly, and Event Officer Alessandro Di Cato [ADC] presents the main points agreement of the working group [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 110-119*]:

1. To extend ranking points beyond the top 40 of the World Cup ranking.
2. To create a structure that promotes Continental Cups and contribute to the development of athletes, officials, and event organisers that are not at World Cup level yet.
3. To include all senior IFSC events in the Continuously Updated World Ranking (CUWR) to incentivise event organisers and give a broader overview of climbing worldwide.
4. To move towards a system based on status points, by which the status of each event is reflected by giving a minimum number of points to each athlete attending the event.
5. To ensure that the number of points is proportioned to the value of the event.

The collection of points will start with the 2022 season and the new quota structure will be in place for the 2023 season.

### c. Sport Development Plan

The full report of the development plans was sent to the NFs ahead of the GA. KT adds that this is an important step as the question on how to put development ideas into action has been central throughout his mandate. The first step was the reactivation of the Sport and Technical Commissions started in 2018, and the time is ready to go forward with new programmes and structures that will converge in the IFSC Academy as envisaged in the Strategic Plan. SV gives more details on how to implement this project [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 120-125*].

### d. Sport & Technical Commissions

SV reminds that Sport and Technical Commissions follow the same 4-year term of the Executive Board, so the new commissions will be formed following the General Elections on 25 April 2021. NFs will be invited to send their nominations in due time [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 126-129*].

### e. Sport Equipment

The definition of the technical requirements of the sport equipment is essential in every International Sport Federation. KT informs that the project is not related to marketing but is necessary to define the sport equipment to be used in the field of play [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 130-134*]. ADC summarises that the scope is to improve the quality of competitions, in terms of materials used, consistency for athletes, and help build strong relationships between NFs and the sport industry

### f. Mixed Gender Team Format

ADC continues giving details on the Boulder mixed gender format to be tested in 2021 [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 135-139*]. At the end of 2020, the IFSC launched a task force of athletes and technical officials, to perform a feasibility study and come up with a proposal for a mixed gender team format. The format is scheduled to be tested in Salt Lake City on 25 May 2021, between the Boulder and the Boulder and Speed World Cups.

g. Other updates

To conclude, ADC gives a summary of the updates implemented in the results system Vertical Life [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 140-147*]. The system is the athletes' database and used also as a storage for data, statistics, and other information. These have an impact on the final information delivered to the audience both through the IFSC website and through the TV graphics and the development of this tool is functional to sport presentation and the understandability of the sport. Finally, new features include functions to speed-up the licensing and registration process for NFs, specific licencing system for Paraclimbing including the sport class, medical documents, etc., as well as individual athletes' statistics of several types including the 'head-to-head' feature to compare the performance of two athletes at the same competition.

### 13. EVENTS (SPORT+COMMUNICATIONS+MARKETING)

a. 2021 Climbing and Paraclimbing World Championships

KT thanks all the NFs who have committed to organising events in these difficult times. With regard to the World Championships to be held in Moscow, Russia, the main concern remains the pending answer from WADA. SV informs that the IFSC met with WADA a few days after the notice of the award. In the meeting, WADA requested an assessment including timelines, internal procedures, details on the status of preparation.

In the meantime, IFSC and the Climbing Federation of Russia (CFR) are moving forward with the preparation of the event. IFSC and CFR are closely cooperating to ensure the conditions issued by the CAS in the Award WADA v. RUSADA are fully respected. NFs will be updated as soon as more information becomes available from WADA [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 148-149*].

b. 2021 Season

SV continues giving an overview of the Calendar 2021. The approach to the delivery of the season must take into account the Covid situation and its variables. Updates are given related to the Covid Addendum to the Rules, the document that explains in detail how to manage competitions during Covid [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 150-156*].

In conclusion, SV informs that BMI screenings will take place at all Boulder and Lead semi-finals and performed by competition doctors or members of the Medical Commission [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 157-158*].

A question from Norway is raised on whether the CAS award applies to the Youth World Championships as well, which are also to be hosted in Russia. The President answers that the CAS award applies exclusively to World Championships and Olympic and Paralympic Games. Preparation goes on, however with full respect of WADA and acceptance of the limitations and sanctions awarded.

TV and Marketing Director Anne Fuynel [AF] provides data from a survey conducted by IFSC marketing agency Dentsu. The objective of the survey was to evaluate the recognition of each Olympic sport, and the intention to watch the Olympic programme. Sport Climbing is in a very good position especially compared to the other additional sports.

From the sponsorship perspective, the pandemic has deeply affected the possibility of new agreements, so the goal for 2021 is to consolidate the current agreements, create conditions to attract new suppliers and develop new opportunities with Dentsu Sports International. In terms of broadcasting, the IFSC is focused on the countries with Olympic athletes and expects to sign deals with Olympic broadcasters. Resources have been invested in production to improve the experience of the audience and reach more countries [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 159-175*].

A question from Great Britain is asked on the source used for the statistics showed in the Dentsu survey. The President answers that the statistics are showing the positioning of the sports in Japan, and it is interesting to see how each sport is received in different countries.

Head of Communications Marco Vettoretti [MV] continues the update on the 2021 Season: the first World Cup has already taken place in Meiringen, Switzerland, and it gives the opportunity to compare it to its 2019 edition. The numbers in 2019 were rather impressive and comparing them to 2021 (same number of days and same month) this year's numbers are significantly higher. This gives an idea of the growth that can be expected both on YouTube and on IFSC social media channels (Instagram, Facebook, Twitter) [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 176-179*].

MV informs of the sections of the website that have been recently updated, made more readable and accessible [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 180-192*].

c. 2022-2023 Season preview

Event applications for the 2022 and 2023 seasons have been launched and ADC informs that they were open for two years to increase continuity and stability of the calendar, and support event organisers with their partners and other institutions [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 193-199*]. A spot for each discipline was kept open to be allocated in 2022, to give the opportunity to new NFs to come forward at a later stage. The applications will close at the end of May 2021 and the Executive Board will review the first draft in July 2021. The 2022 YWCH are scheduled to take place in the USA and the location is to be defined.

ADC adds a consideration on the event model: an internal analysis was conducted to assess the current situation and see what can be improved to make IFSC events more financially sustainable. The main principle is that the organisation of international climbing events should be profitable for all stakeholders. A one-size-fit-all solution cannot be expected given the variety of NFs and organisers globally, so a customised approach is preferred to attract event organisers. Cooperation and transfer of information with the NFs is fundamental to allow this to happen and create the premises for a win-win solution.

There is a growing interest from private investors to host climbing events especially in big cities, and the IFSC is in favour of welcoming these applications as they are an opportunity; however, the NF must keep a central role and be directly involved in the organisation to safeguard the sport.

A question from Canada is asked about whether the IFSC would consider applications from city/private investors without NF support. The President answers that this is out of question: the NFs are the guardians of our sport in the country, and they have to be involved.

d. Sustainability

AF presents the steps taken to improve the sustainable running of IFSC activities [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 200-203*].

#### 14. PARACLIMBING COMMITTEE

a. Report of activities

Chair of the Paraclimbing Committee Sebastian Depke [SD] gives updates on the preparation of the 2021 season [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 204-210*].

In line with the goal to be included in the Paralympic Games, it is necessary to have a Classification system compliant with IPC-recognised standards. New Classification Rules (50+ pages) will replace the old ones (3 pages), and the first Classifiers' Seminar based on these new rules will take place in Innsbruck ahead of the World Cup in June. This seminar has the scope to educate Classifiers and begin the creation of a pool of Classifiers. The licensing system has also been updated on Vertical Life to comply with IPC standards, so each athlete must submit a medical form to receive the licence. In 2021 all athletes will be reclassified according to the new Classification Rules, and the Paraclimbing Committee will collect feedback to include improvements to fine-tune them. The merging system will also be reviewed to be more functional to the definition of the Sport Classes.

SV adds some details on the bid to the LA 2028 Paralympic Games and confirms that it was not possible to apply for Paris 2024 because the IPC decides the programme about seven years in advance. LA 2028 is an opportunity from which the IFSC and the Paraclimbing community can learn and grow. There are several conditions to be met, from being firstly included in the Olympic Programme, to having a certain number of countries represented, a solid classification system, etc. The IPC is expected to call applications to LA 2028 in the fall of 2021, and more updates will be given in due course.

The President adds that the IFSC is fully behind the bid to LA 2028 Paralympic Games, and reminds that it is possible that Paraclimbing will need to go through a similar process as for the inclusion of Sport Climbing in Tokyo 2020 with only one medal, then Paris 2024 with two medals, etc. and that inclusion in the Olympic Programme of LA 2028 has not been confirmed yet so the Paraclimbing season goes on with many competitions and we will see what 2021 brings.

#### 15. ATHLETES' COMMISSION

a. Report of activities

Athletes' Commission President Sean McColl [SMC] informs that the Athletes' Commission has been active with regular meetings especially in preparation of the next Executive Board Meetings, and to address key topics such as Boulder & Lead, and the World Ranking implementation. At the end of May, the IOC will host the International Athletes' Forum and because it is a virtual meeting each member of the Athletes' Commission has been invited to attend. SMC reminds that half of the members of the Athletes' Commission are scheduled to be elected, as customary, at the World Championships.

Athletes' Commission Vice President Shauna Coxsey [SC] adds that participation in the working groups has been fundamental to cooperate and positively contribute to the decision-making process, and it is very important for athletes to be heard within the structure of the organisation [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides, pp. 211-213*].

**16. ANTI-DOPING COMMISSION**

## a. Report of activities

Anti-Doping Officer Paolo Orione reports the latest key results of 2020/2021 [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides*, p. 215].

**17. MEDICAL COMMISSION**

## a. Report of activities

Chair of the Medical Commission Eugen Burtscher gives a brief report as many details on some of the key topics have already been provided. [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides*, pp. 216-221]. The Medical Commission is tasked with the protection of the health of athletes and of Climbing as a safe sport. The recommendation of the Medical Commission is that all NFs use the standards for medical examination provided by the Medical Commission and available on the IFSC website to check the health of the athletes. The intention is that all athletes achieve all health requirements to compete at international level. Preliminary information is given on a research focused on female athletes' health and all female athletes with an international licence will be invited to contribute to the research through an anonymous survey.

**18. COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT**

## a. 2020 Annual Report

MV introduces the 2020 IFSC Annual Report: the digital version will soon be available for download, whereas the hard copies will be distributed throughout the season to as many NFs as possible [Ref. *2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Slides*, pp. 222-242].

The meeting is adjourned at 16:45 CEST.

Sunday 25 April  
14:00-17:00 UTC+2

**19. CALL TO ORDER**

Lumi informs there is a total of 84 attendees currently present, 56 of which are voting members.

**20. ELECTIONS**

Full List of Candidates [Ref. 20\_2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Nominated\_Candidates\_Full\_List]

a. Nomination of the Chair of the Elections, Scrutineers, Notary

Members are informed that on 21 April 2021, the Executive Board nominated retiring Board Member Anthony Seah [AS], President of IFSC Asia, as Chair of the Elections. Lumi Global hosts the official voting system and Kyle Sleep and Garrick Pallant act as scrutineers, showing the results for each round of election. Mr. Edward Gardiner is an independent notary overseeing the elections from the Lumi offices.

The results will be shown by Lumi, read by Mr. Seah as Chair of the Elections, and certified by Mr. Gardiner as Notary.

Q&A will take place after each candidate's presentation, and only delegates representing member federations can ask questions to the candidates.

As Chair of the 2021 IFSC Elections, AS delegates the logistic running of the elections to IFSC General Director Piero Rebaudengo [PR] based at the IFSC Headquarters in Torino. PR will manage the presentations, Q&A, launch votes and read the results for the IFSC constituents at the close of each poll on behalf of AS.

b. Nomination Committee Introduction [Ref. 20.b\_2021\_IFSC\_GA\_Nomination\_Committee\_Report]

Chair of the Nomination Committee Marc Le Menestrel refers to the report of the Nomination Committee and confirms all candidates are in good standing and eligible.

Position	Name	Nomination approved
President	Marco Maria Sclaris	YES
Vice President	Wolfgang Wabel	YES
Vice President	Mohammad Havaledar	YES
Vice President	Kobinata Toru	YES
Vice President	Nils Glatthard	YES
Treasurer	Pierre You	YES
Secretary General	Debra Gawrych	YES

c. Executive Board Candidates' Presentations

Referring to the electoral procedure approved by the GA in 2020, PR informs that each candidate shall have the opportunity to make a presentation to the members at the General Assembly. Executive Board candidates are given the following presentation times.

Position	Number of Candidates	Time per Candidate
President	1	12 minutes
Vice President	3	8 minutes
Treasurer	1	8 minutes
Secretary General	1	8 minutes

Each candidate gives a presentation followed by a round of Q&A.

d. Elections

On behalf of the Chair of the Elections, PR calls each round of election and announces the result starting from Executive Board Members, followed by Commission Members and Auditor.

Official results are reported below.

EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION			
Position	Name	Votes Received / 56 Votes in Room	Result
President	Marco Maria Sclaris	50/56	Elected
Secretary General	Debra Gawrych	48/56	Elected
Vice President	Wolfgang Wabel	41/56	Elected
Vice President	Kobinata Toru	53/56	Elected
Vice President	Nils Glatthard	10/56	Not Elected
Treasurer	Pierre You	52/56	Elected
COMMISSIONS			
Position	Name	Votes Received / 56 Votes in Room	Result
Chair of the Disciplinary Commission	Ian Alderson	53/56	Appointed
Chair of the Appeals Commission	Seyed Abdollahi	46/56	Appointed
Chair of the Ethics Commission	Marc Le Menestrel	52/56	Appointed
Member of the Ethics Commission	Takako Hoshi	51/56	Appointed
Auditor	EY – Ernst & Young	51/56	Appointed

AS reads the official results and declares the elections officially closed.

**21. SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY**

a. Peace & Sport and April6

IFSC Honorary Member Paola Gigliotti gives a report of the activities linked to Peace & Sport and April6, the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace. This year, together with Champion for Peace Nouria Benida Merah, Algeria, and Maria Irene Phellas, Cyprus, they sent a message to remember peace and raise awareness on the issue of refugees in the Mediterranean. Other initiatives involved the development of sport programmes for girls in cooperation with India Naandi Foundation, 2019 winner of Peace & Sport.

b. CAC updates

Athletes' Commission Vice president and CAC Trustee Shauna Coxsey gives an update on the activities and fundraisers for Climbers Against Cancer.

**22. NEXT MEETINGS**

a. Presentation and Vote to approve the location of the 2022 General Assembly: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA – Hosted by USA Climbing

CEO of USA Climbing Marc Norman presents the candidature to host the General Assembly in 2022.

Vote to approve the location of the 2022 General Assembly: Salt Lake City, Utah, USA – Hosted by USA Climbing						
Total Possible Votes: 56						
Blank Votes: 11						
In favour	46	Against	0	Abstained	0	APPROVED



- b. Presentation and Vote to approve the location of the 2023 General Assembly: Singapore City, Singapore – Hosted by Singapore Mountaineering Federation

Secretary General of the Singapore Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation Rasip Isnin presents the candidature to host the General Assembly in 2023.

Vote to approve the location of the 2023 General Assembly: Singapore City, Singapore – Hosted by Singapore Sport Climbing and Mountaineering Federation						
Total Possible Votes: 56 Blank Votes: 12						
In favour	44	Against	0	Abstained	0	APPROVED

**23. CLOSING REMARKS**

The President addresses the Members with some closing remarks: it is strongly hoped that the 2022 GA will finally be in person, and all necessary measures will be taken to make the event safe for the participants. The President further encourages NFs to send candidates for the Commissions, existing and new ones, and informs that regular NF calls will be hosted to give updates on the WADA decision, expected soon, and on the status of preparation of the Olympic Games.

The meeting is adjourned at 17:00 CEST.